



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) remained constant over the month at 3.6 percent as shown in Northeast Table 1. The LMA's unemployment rate was 1.6 percentage points lower than the state rate of 5.2 percent and 2.8 percentage points lower than the national rate of 6.4 percent. The individual counties of the LMA showed little, if any, changes over the month with the exception of Butte County, which decreased 1.0 percentage point from May to June. Year-over-year, the unemployment rate in the LMA decreased four-tenths of a percentage point with Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson Counties contributing to the decrease. Butte County's rate actually increased 1.0 percentage point from June 2002. Since layoffs from the Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) hit in 2001, Butte County has been showing larger changes than the other three counties as its population is smaller than the other counties, therefore small numeric changes cause large percent changes. The unemployment rate in Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.3 percent, which is a decrease of six-tenths of a percentage point from June 2002.

Other counties in Northeast Idaho that are not part of the LMA saw slight changes in the unemployment rate over the month as Clark, Custer, Lemhi, and Teton Counties each showed decreases, while Fremont and Madison Counties both experienced increases. Year-over-year, the rate in all counties decreased with Custer showing the largest decrease at 1.3 percentage points. Concentration on long-term economic development,

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	June 2003*	May 2003	June 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,170	83,580	83,000	-0.5	0.2
Unemployment	2,980	2,980	3,310	0.0	-10.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.6	4.0		
Total Employment	80,190	80,600	79,690	-0.5	0.6
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,710	83,550	84,300	1.4	0.5
Unemployment	2,560	2,470	2,930	3.6	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.0	3.5		
Total Employment	82,150	81,080	81,370	1.3	1.0
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	64,620	63,500	64,450	1.8	0.3
Goods-Producing Industries	10,880	10,390	10,060	4.7	8.2
Natural Resources & Mining	70	70	80	0.0	-12.5
Construction	5,390	4,990	4,770	8.0	13.0
Manufacturing	5,420	5,330	5,210	1.7	4.0
Food Manufacturing	2,730	2,680	2,850	1.9	-4.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	310	300	250	3.3	24.0
Machinery Manufacturing	480	470	450	2.1	6.7
Other Manufacturing	1,900	1,880	1,660	1.1	14.5
Service-Providing Industries	53,740	53,110	54,390	1.2	-1.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	14,150	13,970	14,880	1.3	-4.9
Wholesale Trade	4,830	4,760	5,250	1.5	-8.0
Retail Trade	7,440	7,390	7,890	0.7	-5.7
Utilities	100	100	100	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,770	1,720	1,640	2.9	7.9
Information	830	820	970	1.2	-14.4
Financial Activities	2,040	2,030	2,110	0.5	-3.3
Professional & Business Services	11,700	11,630	11,820	0.6	-1.0
Educational & Health Services	6,390	6,310	6,060	1.3	5.4
Leisure & Hospitality	5,020	4,830	5,020	3.9	0.0
Other Services	2,260	2,260	2,270	0.0	-0.4
Government Education	5,060	5,160	5,090	-1.9	-0.6
Government Administration	6,290	6,100	6,170	3.1	1.9

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

along with a temporary increase of workers at the Thompson Creek Mine (while molybdenum prices are encouraging) can be cited as reasons for the drop.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs in the LMA increased by more than 1,100 jobs from May. *Construction*, *Leisure & Hospitality*, and *Government Administration* were all large contributors. *Construction* showed the largest monthly gain of all industries in the LMA with continued commercial and residential growth. *Leisure & Hospitality* and *Government Administration* each grew as a result of seasonal factors, including tourism and the need for summer facility and grounds maintenance. The only job loss

experienced over the month was in *Government Education* due to the natural break in school schedules.

Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased only 170 jobs as gains in *Goods-Producing Industries* (820 jobs) outweighed losses in *Service-Producing Industries* (650 jobs). *Construction* gained over 600 jobs from June 2002 to June 2003 as the mild winter and favorable spring allowed jobs to start earlier than normal. *Manufacturing* gained 210 jobs overall even after a loss of 120 jobs from the *Food Manufacturing* sector. *Wholesale and Retail Trade* combined lost over 800 jobs because of conservative consumer spending due to uncertainty of national issues. A plus in *Service-Producing Industries* was the gain of 330 jobs in *Educational & Health Services*, mostly in *Health Services*, as the LMA continues to attract medical specialists due to the large geographic area it services.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Multi Counties

- All nine counties in Northeast Idaho (and all four counties in the LMA) are now listed under drought emergency declarations. A declaration has to be issued by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and is then forwarded to the governor for approval. Once an area is listed as a drought emergency area, irrigation companies can work with the IDWR to secure temporary water rights or make modifications to existing rights for those entities that need water. More information can be found at IDWR's website: www.idwr.state.id.us.

Bonneville County

- Tele-Servicing Innovations (TSI) recently closed the doors to its Idaho Falls facility. The company cites the federal Do Not Call legislation as the main reason for the closure. The national economic downturn also played a role. Approximately 80 people were affected.
- Bubba's Bar-B-Que reopened after fire damaged a portion of it in late January. The restaurant completely remodeled the interior. The restaurant offers bar-b-que meals with nightly specials and is located at the corner of Yellowstone Avenue and First Street in Idaho Falls.
- A new fast food restaurant is moving into the former Artic Circle building on First Street in Idaho Falls. The owners of Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant bought the property when Artic Circle moved into its new location in Ammon. The new fast-food restaurant, Los Primos, will specialize in

Mexican food. It will open at 6 a.m. and drive-through service will stay open until 2 a.m. It should be open for business at the end of August.

- John Kotek has been named the new deputy manager of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho Operations Office, which oversees the Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). He will now be working with the newly appointed manager, Elizabeth Sellers. Kotek worked at the DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology in Washington, D.C. for nine years before working for Argonne National Laboratory West where he was most recently senior manager. He worked to develop the Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems Technology Roadmap and was part of efforts to create hydrogen from nuclear energy. He is currently chairman of Idaho's chapter of the American Nuclear Society.

Butte County

- BNFL Inc. sponsored the Extreme Thunder BNFL Inc. Arco Air Show, featuring the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels, at the end of July. It attracted many spectators who were well pleased with the event. The show also helped many businesses in Arco as hotels and campgrounds were booked weeks in advance. There are tentative plans to bring the show back in a few years.

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